

# COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND BUILDING STAFF REPORT

# Tentative Notice of Action

MEETING DATE

May 6, 2016

LOCAL EFFECTIVE DATE May 20, 2016

APPROX FINAL EFFECTIVE DATE

June 10, 2016

CONTACT/PHONE

Cody Scheel, Project Planner

(805) 781-5157

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APPLICANT

Marc & Anna Tognazzini

FILE NO.

DRC2015-00065

SUBJECT

A request by **MARC & ANNA TOGNAZZINI** for a Minor Use Permit / Coastal Development Permit (DRC2015-00065) to allow for the construction of a 300 square foot detached replacement garage, and the addition of 54 square feet of covered porch and 390 square feet of uncovered deck to the existing residence. The applicant is requesting an adjustment per Section 23.07.174(2) to allow the replacement garage to be located within the required riparian setback of 100 feet, and an adjustment per section 23.05.104(f) to allow the replacement garage to be located within the required side setback. The project also includes approximately 600 square feet of flatwork, and approximately 175 linear feet of 6-foot tall as-built wooden fencing, and approximately 50 linear feet of 3-foot tall as-built wooden fencing, both located within the front setback. The applicant is requesting a waiver per Section 23.04.190(b)(4) to allow the as-built solid fencing in the front setback. The proposed project will result in the disturbance of approximately 1,550 square feet of a 0.63 acre parcel. The proposed project is within the Agriculture land use category and is located at 2160 San Bernardo Creek Road, approximately 3.3 miles northeast of the City of Morro Bay. The site is located in the Estero planning area.

# RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approve Minor Use Permit / Coastal Development Permit DRC2015-00065 based on the findings listed in Exhibit A and the conditions listed in Exhibit B.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

A Class 3 Categorical Exemption was issued on April 11, 2016 (ED15-252).

LAND USE CATEGORY:

COMBINING DESIGNATION

Agriculture Local Coastal Program Area, Coastal Zone

Creek or Stream, Geologic Study Area

ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER 073-041-014

SUPERVISOR DISTRICT 2

PLANNING AREA STANDARDS:

Light and Glare, Agriculture

Does the project meet applicable Planning Area Standards: Yes – see discussion

LAND USE ORDINANCE STANDARDS:

Local Coastal Program Area, Appeals to the Coastal Commission, Non-Agricultural Uses in the Agriculture Land Use Category, Setbacks, Height, Fencing & Screening, Sensitive Resource Area, Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA), Streams & Riparian Vegetation, Residential Uses in the Agriculture Category Does the project conform to the Land Use Ordinance Standards: Yes – see discussion

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & BUILDING AT: COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER γ SAN LUIS OBISPO γ CALIFORNIA 93408 γ (805) 781-5600 γ FAX: (805) 781-1242

FINAL ACTION

This tentative decision will become the final action on the project, unless the tentative decision is changed as a result of information obtained at the administrative hearing or is appealed to the County Board of Supervisors pursuant Section 23.01.042 of the Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance; effective on the 10th working day after the receipt of the final action by the California Coastal Commission. The tentative decision will be transferred to the Coastal Commission following the required 14-calendar day local appeal period after the administrative hearing.

The applicant is encouraged to call the Central Coast District Office of the Coastal Commission in Santa Cruz at (831) 427-4863 to verify the date of final action. The County will not issue any construction permits prior to the end of the Coastal Commission process.

EXISTING USES:

Single family residence

SURROUNDING LAND USE CATEGORIES AND USES:

OTHER AGENCY / ADVISORY GROUP INVOLVEMENT:

The project was referred to: Public Works, Cal Fire, California Department of Fish & Wildlife & California

Coastal Commission

TOPOGRAPHY:

Nearly level to gently sloping

VEGETATION:

Ornamental landscape, grasses, oaks, riparian vegetation

ACCEPTANCE DATE:

March 3, 2016

PROPOSED SERVICES:

Water supply: On-site well

Sewage Disposal: On-site septic system

Fire Protection: Cal Fire

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#### **DISCUSSION**

#### PROJECT HISTORY

On August 8, 2014, the County Code Enforcement received a complaint regarding the unpermitted demolition of an existing garage, poured concrete flatwork for new structures, and dirt excavation. The evaluation of the complaint resulted in the requirement for this Minor Use Permit that mainly addresses the adjustment of the 100 foot minimum riparian setback to allow for the construction of a proposed 300 square foot detached replacement garage, and the adjustment to allow for approximately 175 linear feet of as-built solid wooden fencing located within the front setback. The use permit also addresses the proposed addition of 54 square feet of covered porch and 390 square feet of uncovered deck to the existing residence, and approximately 600 square feet of new flatwork/walkways. The proposed project will result in the disturbance of approximately 1,550 square feet of a 0.63 acre parcel.

ESTERO PLANNING AREA STANDARDS

# **Areawide Standards**

Light and Glare

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At time of application for land use permits, the applicant shall provide details on any proposed exterior lighting. Except as necessary to support agricultural operations, all lighting fixtures shall be shielded so that neither the lamp nor the related reflector interior surface is visible from adjacent properties. Light hoods shall be dark colored.

Staff comments: This project is conditioned to comply with all lighting standards.

### **Rural Area Standards**

# **Agriculture**

The intent of this standard is to limit uses to those that are most directly related to agricultural production on lands that support the most intensive farming operations. Allowable uses are limited to: agricultural accessory structures; animal raising and keeping; crop production and grazing; nursery specialties soil dependent; coastal access ways; farm support quarters; home occupations; mobile homes; residential accessory uses; single family dwellings consistent with the protection of agriculture; temporary dwelling; water wells and impoundments; pipelines and transmission lines; public utility facilities.

Staff comments: The proposed project complies with this standard as it consists of residential accessory uses which include a replacement garage, porch additions and a fence addition and are allowable uses in the Estero Rural Area Standards for the Agriculture land use category. Additionally, the 0.63-acre project site does not support intensive farming operations and is too small to support commercially viable agriculture.

## LAND USE ORDINANCE STANDARDS

### Section 23.07.120: Local Coastal Program

The project site is located within the California Coastal Zone as established by the California Coastal Act of 1976, and is subject to the provisions of the Local Coastal Program.

### Section 23.01.043(c)(1) – Appeals to the Coastal Commission (Coastal Appealable Zone)

The project is appealable to the Coastal Commission because the proposed development is within 100 feet of a coastal creek or stream.

## Section 23.040.050: Non-Agricultural Uses in the Agriculture Land Use Category

#### Siting of Structures

A single-family dwelling and any agricultural accessory buildings supporting the agricultural use shall, where feasible, be located on other than prime soils and shall incorporate mitigation measure necessary to reduce negative impacts on adjacent agricultural uses.

Staff comments: The proposed replacement garage, porch additions and fence addition are considered residential accessory structures and the site does not consist of prime soils. There are currently no adjacent agricultural uses.

Section 23.04.100: Setbacks

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The front setback shall be a minimum of 25 feet; the side setbacks shall be a minimum of 25 feet, and the rear setback shall be a minimum of 10 feet.

Staff comments: The proposed project complies with all the required setbacks except for the 25-foot east property line side setback, which the applicant is requesting to adjust down to 5 feet.

# Side Setback Adjustment

The applicant is requesting an adjustment to the side setback to allow the replacement garage to be located 5 feet from the property (east side) line. A smaller setback may be granted using an adjustment provided in Section 23.05.104(f) where mitigated practices are approved by the fire inspection authority.

Cal Fire conducted a review of the project and has found the reduced setback acceptable. Cal Fire will require fire sprinklers within the replacement garage structure due to the proposed reduced setback. Therefore, staff recommends approval of the Minor Use Permit to modify the standard to allow the replacement garage to be located 5 feet from the property (east side) line.

# Section 23.04.120: Heights

The maximum height allowed is 35 feet from average natural grade.

Staff comments: The proposed replacement garage is a single-story and will not exceed 35 feet in height.

# Section 23.04.160: Parking

Two off-street parking spaces are required for each single-family dwelling.

Staff comments: The proposed project complies with this standard.

### Section 23.04.190(c): Fencing and Screening

This section allows for solid fences in a front or street side setback to be as tall as 3 feet with zoning clearance approval, and as tall as 6 feet 6 inches with minor use permit approval. To approve a fence greater than 3 feet in a front or side setback, the Review Authority must find that the proposed fencing or screening:

- a. Is necessary to enclose private open space for a dwelling because alternative areas such as rear or side yards do not exist or are unsuitable for such use; and
- b. Will not block visibility of the front entrance to the dwelling from the street; and
- c. Will not impair safe sight distances for vehicle traffic; and
- d. Will not exceed 6 feet 6 inches in height.

Staff comments: There are two sizes of fencing proposed on the property: a 3 foot tall solid wooden fence and a 6 foot tall solid wooden fence, both located along the front property boundary and within the front setback. The 3 foot fence within the front setback is approximately 50 linear feet and spans along the front of the existing residence, and is

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allowable under this section as it complies with the height limit. The 6 foot fence within the front setback is approximately 175 linear feet and spans west from the existing residence to the western property boundary, and is allowable through the minor use permit process subject to meeting the required findings above. The proposed fencing is necessary to provide usable private open space in the front yard of the property. The backyard of the property is unsuitable as private open space because it is located adjacent to and within the riparian corridor of San Bernardo Creek. The as-built fence does not block visibility of the residence's front entrance from the street. Public Works has reviewed the project for a preliminary determination that the sight distances for vehicle traffic is adequate and the project is conditioned to secure an

Encroachment Permit to construct the project access driveway in accordance with County Public Improvement Standards, and meet the County Standard Drawing A-5a and sight distance requirements. Based on the findings and condition #4 this project complies with applicable fencing and screening standards.

# Section 23.07.080: Geologic Study Area (GSA)

All land use permit applications for projects located within a Geologic Study Area (except those exempted by Section 23.07.082) shall be accompanied by a report prepared by a certified engineering geologist and/or registered civil engineer (as to soils engineering), as appropriate.

Staff comments: The proposed project complies with this standard, as the applicant has provided a Soils Engineering Report, prepared by Geosolutions, Inc. dated February 3, 2015. This report concludes that the site is suitable for the proposed development, and as conditioned, the recommendations presented in the report will be incorporated into the project plans and specifications.

### Section 23.07.160: Sensitive Resource Area (SRA)

The Sensitive Resource Area combining designation is applied by the Official Maps (Part III) of the Land Use Element to identify areas with special environmental qualities, or areas containing unique or endangered vegetation or habitat resources. The purpose of these combining designation standards is to require that proposed uses be designed with consideration of the identified sensitive resources, and the need for their protection, and, where applicable, to satisfy the requirements of the California Coastal Act. Any land use permit application within a Sensitive Resource Area shall be approved only where the Review Authority can make the following required findings:

- a. The development will not create significant adverse effects on the natural features of the site or vicinity that were the basis for the Sensitive Resource Area designation, and will preserve and protect such features through the site design.
- b. Natural features and topography have been considered in the design and siting of all proposed physical improvements.
- c. Any proposed clearing of topsoil, trees, or other features is the minimum necessary to achieve safe and convenient access and siting of proposed structures, and will notcreate significant adverse effects on the identified sensitive resource.
- d. The soil and subsoil conditions are suitable for any proposed excavation; site preparation and drainage improvements have been designed to prevent soil erosion, and sedimentation of streams through undue surface runoff.

### Section 23.07.170: Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA)

A portion of the project site is considered an environmentally sensitive habitat area (ESHA) due to its location within the Streams and Riparian Vegetation combining designation. Applications for development within an ESHA must include a biological assessment to evaluate the project's impact on ESHA and whether the development will be consistent with the biological continuance of the habitat. Approval of a land use permit for a project within or adjacent to an ESHA shall not occur unless the applicable review body first finds that:

- a. There will be no significant negative impact on the identified sensitive habitat and the proposed use will be consistent with the biological continuance of the habitat.
- b. The proposed use will not significantly disrupt the habitat.

Staff comments: The SRA designation is applied to the stream and riparian vegetation habitat, which are considered to be environmentally sensitive habitat areas (ESHA) due to their locations within the Streams and Riparian Vegetation (SRV) combining designation. The project or use will not create significant adverse effects on the natural features of the site or vicinity that were the basis for the Sensitive Resource Area designation, and will preserve and protect such features through the site design because the proposed detached garage would be sited in a previously disturbed area, would be setback as far from the riparian vegetation as possible without encroaching into the front setback, and would not require the removal of any riparian vegetation. As designed, natural features and topography have been considered in the design and siting of all proposed physical improvements, and the proposed clearing of topsoil and trees is the minimum necessary to achieve safe and convenient access and siting of proposed structures, and will not create significant adverse effects on the identified sensitive resource. The soil and subsoil conditions are suitable for any proposed excavation and site preparation. and drainage improvements have been designed to prevent soil erosion and sedimentation of streams through undue surface runoff. To ensure compliance, the project has been conditioned to submit a drainage plan to Public Works at time of application for building permits.

The proposed replacement garage will not have a significant negative impact on the identified sensitive habitat, and the proposed use will be consistent with the biological continuance of the habitat as the proposed detached garage would be sited in a previously disturbed area, would be setback as far from the riparian vegetation as possible without encroaching into the front setback, and would not require the removal of any riparian vegetation. Conditions of approval requiring a drainage and erosion control plan, identification of a project limit area, and a landscape/revegetation plan will minimize and avoid impacts to the riparian habitat area. The proposed use will not significantly disrupt the habitat as the proposed detached garage would be sited in a previously disturbed area, would be setback as far from the riparian vegetation as possible without encroaching into the front setback, and would not require the removal of any riparian vegetation.

### Section 23.07.174: Streams and Riparian Vegetation

The provisions of this section are intended to preserve and protect the natural hydrological system and ecological function of coastal streams. Development adjacent to a coastal stream shall be sited and designed to protect the habitat of the stream. New development in rural areas shall be setback a minimum of 100 feet from the upland edge of riparian vegetation, however, Section 23.07.104(d)(2) allows the minimum riparian setback to be adjusted through Minor Use Permit approval, but in no case shall structures be allowed closer than 10 feet from a stream bank, and provided the following findings can first be made:

a. Alternative locations and routes are infeasible or more environmentally damaging; and

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- b. Adverse environmental effects are mitigated to the maximum extent feasible; and
- c. The adjustment is necessary to allow a principal permitted use of the property and redesign of the proposed development would not allow the use with the standard setbacks; and
- d. The adjustment is the minimum that would allow for the establishment of a principal permitted use.

Staff comments: The project's replacement garage is proposed to be setback 10 feet from the upland edge of the riparian vegetation which is allowable through the minor use permit process

subject to meeting the required findings above. Alternative locations and routes for the proposed replacement garage are more environmentally damaging because the proposed location uses the existing access driveway and the previous demolished garage that was approximately at the same location. Locating the garage elsewhere on the property would cause further site disturbance and would not be located immediately adjacent to the existing residence. Adverse environmental effects are mitigated to the maximum extent feasible because a Biological Creek Setback Determination was conducted by Marine Research Specialist, dated December 5, 2015. The report concluded that no new or additional impacts to the creek channel or associated riparian habitat within the banks of the creek were observed due to recent project activities or proposed work beyond pre-existing conditions. conditioned, the recommendations presented in the report will be incorporated into the project plans and specifications. The adjustment is the minimum necessary to allow a principal permitted use of the property because the proposed replacement garage would be sited as far away from the riparian corridor as possible without encroaching into the front setback and because locating the replacement garage elsewhere on the property would result in new site disturbance within the creek setback area.

### Section 23.08.167: Residential Uses in the Agriculture Category

This section allows one single family dwelling and eligible farm support quarters on existing legal parcels in the Agriculture land use category. Farm support quarters are only allowed when they are in direct support of existing agricultural production activities on lands owned or leased by the farm housing owner. The allowed number (density) of farm support units allowed on agricultural parcels varies based on the agricultural use of the property.

Staff comments: The proposed project is consistent with this standard because the property is developed with one single family residence and the proposed development would allow for various residential accessory structures, including a detached garage, porches, and fences. The site does not support agricultural uses and is too small to support commercially viable agriculture. Farm support quarters are not proposed with this project, nor would they be allowed due the lack of any on-site agriculture.

### **COASTAL PLAN POLICIES:**

Following is a brief list of the Coastal Plan Policies (discussion of specific applicable policies following):

Shoreline Access: N/A

Recreation and Visitor Serving: N/A Energy and Industrial Development: N/A

Commercial Fishing, Recreational Boating and Port Facilities: N/A

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Environmentally Sensitive Habitats: 
Policy No(s): 1, 2, 20, 21, 29 & 35

Agriculture: ☑ Policy No(s): 4
Public Works: ☑ Policy No(s): 1

Coastal Watersheds: Policy No(s): 7, 8, 9 & 10

Visual and Scenic Resources: N/A

Hazards: 

■ Policy No(s): 2

Archeology: N/A Air Quality: N/A

Does the project meet applicable Coastal Plan Policies: Yes, as conditioned

#### COASTAL PLAN POLICY DISCUSSION:

# Environmentally Sensitive Habitats (ESHAs)

# Policy 1 – Land Uses within or adjacent to Environmentally Sensitive Habitats

New development within or adjacent to locations of environmentally sensitive habitats (within 100 feet unless sites further removed would significantly disrupt the habitat) shall not significantly disrupt the resource. Within an existing resource, only those uses dependent on such resources shall be allowed within the area.

# Policy 2 - Permit requirements

As a condition of permit approval, the applicant is required to demonstrate that there will be no significant impact on sensitive habitats and that proposed development or activities will be consistent with the biological continuance of the habitat. This shall include an evaluation of the site prepared by a qualified professional which provides: a) the maximum feasible mitigation measures (where appropriate), and b) a program for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of mitigation measures where appropriate.

Staff comments: The project is located within 100 feet of an EHSA. The project's replacement garage is proposed to be setback 10 feet from the upland edge of the riparian vegetation which is allowable through the minor use permit process subject to meeting the required findings Alternative locations and routes for the proposed replacement garage are more environmentally damaging because the proposed location uses the existing access driveway and the previous demolished garage that was approximately at the same location. Locating the garage elsewhere on the property would cause further site disturbance and would not be located immediately adjacent to the existing residence. The proposed replacement garage would be sited as far away from the riparian corridor as possible without encroaching into the front setback and because locating the replacement garage elsewhere on the property would result in new site disturbance within the creek setback area. Adverse environmental effects are mitigated to the maximum extent feasible because a Biological Creek Setback Determination was conducted by Marine Research Specialist, dated December 5, 2015. The report concluded that no new or additional impacts to the creek channel or associated riparian habitat within the banks of the creek were observed due to recent project activities or proposed work beyond preexisting conditions. As conditioned, the recommendations presented in the report will be incorporated into the project plans and specifications. Additional mitigation measures and project conditions (including BMPs for grading, erosion and sedimentation, drainage control, prohibition of direct exterior lighting in the riparian area, limited construction period, and riparian restoration) should provide adequate protection of the ESHA over time while still allowing for a reasonable principally permitted use on the project site.

# Policy 3 - Habitat restoration

The County or Coastal Commission should require the restoration of damaged habitats as a condition of approval when feasible.

Staff comments: The project is consistent with this policy because it is conditioned to implement an approved Landscape Restoration Plan to restore any pre-disturbed stream and riparian habitat.

# Policy 20 – Coastal Streams and Riparian Vegetation

Coastal streams and adjoining riparian vegetation are environmentally sensitive habitat areas and the natural hydrological system and ecological function of coastal streams shall be protected and preserved.

# Policy 21 – Development in or adjacent to a coastal stream

Development adjacent to or within the watershed (that portion within the coastal zone) shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts which would significantly degrade the coastal habitat and shall be compatible with the continuance of such habitat areas. This shall include evaluation of erosion and runoff concerns.

# Policy 29 – Protection of Terrestrial Habitats

Designated plant and wildlife habitats are environmentally sensitive habitat areas and emphasis for protection should be placed on the entire ecological community. Only uses dependent on the resource shall be permitted within the identified sensitive habitat portion of the site. Development adjacent to environmentally sensitive habitat areas and holdings of the State Department of Parks and Recreation shall be sited and designed to prevent impacts that would significantly degrade such areas and shall be compatible with the continuance of such habitat areas.

Staff comments: San Bernardo Creek and its surrounding riparian vegetation is considered ESHA as defined in Policy 20. As required by Policy 21, the proposed development has been designed to prevent impacts to and ensure the continuance of this habitat. The structures are sited on the least environmentally damaging location of the project site. Any larger setback may diminish the possibility of providing for a principally permitted use on the site. The project will not result in significant environmentally damaging or degrading impacts to the sensitive riparian habitat because adverse environmental effects are mitigated to the maximum extent feasible. A Biological Creek Setback Determination was conducted by Marine Research Specialist, dated December 5, 2015. The report concluded that no new or additional impacts to the creek channel or associated riparian habitat within the banks of the creek were observed due to recent project activities or proposed work beyond pre-existing conditions. As conditioned, the recommendations presented in the report will be incorporated into the project plans and specifications. In addition, prohibition of direct lighting, and implementation of appropriate erosion and sedimentation measures during the construction of the project will prevent impacts that would significantly degrade such areas and shall be compatible with the continuance of such habitat areas.

### **Agriculture**

Policy 4 - Siting of Structures

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This policy states that a single family residence and agricultural accessory structures, where possible, shall be located on other than prime agricultural soils and shall incorporate whatever mitigation measures are necessary to reduce negative impacts on adjacent agricultural uses.

Staff comments: The proposed project is consistent with this policy because the area proposed for the project is not located on prime soils and cannot feasibly be used for irrigated agriculture due to its limited site area. There are no existing agricultural uses immediately adjacent to the site, and no significant impacts to adjacent agricultural uses are anticipated with the project.

#### **Public Works**

# Policy 1 - Availability of Service Capacity

This policy states that new development shall demonstrate that adequate public or private service capacities are available to serve the proposed development.

Staff comments: The project is consistent with this policy because the project would be served by an existing on-site well and septic system.

### Coastal Watersheds

# Policy 7 – Siting of New Development

Grading for the purpose of creating a site for a structure or other development shall be limited to slopes of less than 20 percent.

Staff comments: The proposed project complies with this policy as the development will take place on an existing lot of record in the Agriculture land use category and the development will be situated on slopes of less than 20 percent.

### Policy 8 – Timing of new construction and Grading

Land clearing and grading shall be avoided during the rainy season if there is a potential for serious erosion and sedimentation problems.

Staff comments: The project is consistent with this policy because, as conditioned, the project shall have an erosion and sedimentation control plan where grading is conducted or left in an unfinished state during the period from October 15 through April 15.

### Policy 9 – Techniques for Minimizing Sedimentation

Appropriate control measures (such as sediment basins, terracing, hydro-mulching, etc.) shall be used to minimize erosion and sedimentation. Measures should be utilized from the start of site preparation.

Staff comments: The proposed project is conditioned to comply with this policy as the applicant shall apply Best Management Practices in the selection and implementation of site maintenance, as conditioned in Exhibit B.

# **Policy 10 – Drainage Provisions**

Site design shall ensure that drainage does not increase erosion. This may be achieved either through on-site drainage retention, or conveyance to storm drains or suitable watercourses.

Staff comments: The proposed project is conditioned to comply with this policy as the applicant shall provide a drainage plan to San Luis Obispo County Public Works Department for approval, and shall implement the approved drainage plan, displaying that construction of the new residence will not increase erosion or runoff.

#### Hazards

# Policy 2 - Erosion and Geologic Stability

This policy states that new development shall ensure structural stability while not creating or contributing to erosion or geologic instability.

Staff comments: The proposed project is consistent with this policy because the applicant submitted a Soils Engineering Report, prepared by Geosolutions, Inc. dated February 3, 2015. This report concludes that the site is suitable for the proposed development, and as conditioned, the recommendations presented in the report will be incorporated into the project plans and specifications.

### **AGENCY REVIEW:**

**Public Works** – Recommend approval with conditions, per referral response dated December 4, 2015.

Cal Fire – See attached Fire Safety Plan (Bullard, December 5, 2015).

California Department of Fish & Wildlife – No comments received.

**California Coastal Commission** – No comments received.

# LEGAL LOT STATUS:

The existing lot was legally created by a recorded deed at a time when that was a legal method of creating lots.

Staff report prepared by Cody Scheel and reviewed by Airlin M. Singewald.